

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims, including newly added claims 4-12, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Original): A storage system comprising:
a disk controller coupled to a host computer;
a plurality of disks coupled to said disk controller;
wherein said storage system is coupled to another storage system, and
wherein said disk controller receives an I/O request from said host computer, selects a storage system, in which a storage area accessed by said host computer exists, based on a disk address included in said I/O request, and sends said I/O request to said another storage system if said storage area exists in said another storage system.

Claim 2 (Original): A storage system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said I/O request is a write request to write data into said storage area.

Claim 3 (Original): A storage system as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said disk controller comprises a memory,
wherein corresponding information between a disk address and a storage system, in which a storage area designated by said disk address exists, is stored in said memory, and

wherein said disk controller selects a storage system, in which said storage area accessed by said host computer exists, using said corresponding information and said disk address included in said I/O request.

Claim 4 (Original): A storage system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said I/O request further includes a data address, wherein said disk address designates a disk recognized by said host computer and said data address designates a storage area in a disk designated by said disk address, and

wherein said disk controller selects a storage system, in which an storage area accessed by said host computer exists, not using said data address.

Claim 5 (Original): A storage system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said data address is a record ID.

Claim 6 (New): A storage system comprising:
a first disk controller coupled to a host computer; and
at least one first disk coupled to said first disk controller;
wherein said storage system is coupled to another storage system, which comprises a second disk controller and at least one second disk,
wherein said first disk controller receives a write request issued from said host computer, selects a storage system including a target disk corresponding to first disk identification information included in the write request, obtains, if a selected storage system is said another storage system, identification information designating said

another storage system and second disk identification information designating one of said at least one second disk based on said first disk identification information, and sends the write request to said another storage system according to said identification information designating said another storage system and said second disk identification information.

Claim 7 (New): A storage system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said first disk controller stores correlation information among first disk identification information, identification information designating a storage system, and second disk identification information, and obtains said identification information designating said another storage system and said second disk identification information based on said correlation information.

Claim 8 (New): A storage system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said correlation information is set in said first disk controller by a service processor coupled to said first disk controller.

Claim 9 (New): A storage system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said second disk identification information is identification information assigned to said another storage system.

Claim 10 (New): A storage system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said first disk controller writes data to one of said at least one first disk, if the disk designated by said first disk identification information is in said storage system.

Claim 11 (New): A storage system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said second disk controller has an interface for coupling to said host computer, and said first disk controller is coupled to said second disk controller via the same type of interface as said interface for coupling to said host computer.

Claim 12 (New): A storage system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said interface via which said first disk controller and said second disk controller are coupled is in accordance with SCSI.